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Statement for Penang

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STATEMENT

from the Premier

Date.....

Embargo.....

State Administration Centre,
Victoria Square, Adelaide,
South Australia 5001
228 4811

Penang's sister city relationship with the South Australian capital of Adelaide could become a big money spinner for the State's economy, the South Australian Premier, Mr Dunstan, said today.

Mr Dunstan is visiting Penang for talks on strengthening the ties between the two centres.

During his stay the Premier will have discussions with the Chief Minister, Dr. Lim Chong Eu.

Interest in Penang was very high in South Australia, Mr Dunstan said.

"As a result of our continuing links I am sure that Penang will be an increasingly popular holiday centre for people from South Australia.

"The money they spend could be a significant factor in boosting the State's economy, it could run into millions of dollars."

The Premier said the relationship was based on the links between Captain Francis Light's contribution to the development of Penang and that of his son Colonel William Light who planned Adelaide.

"But the bonds are much closer and stronger than the formal historical link", he added.

There was a 400-strong Malaysian community in South Australia - including a big contingent from Penang - which worked hard to make South Australians more accurately aware of the very rich cultural life and heritage of Malaysia and of its problems and enormous potential.

"As a result of their efforts we are now far more conscious of Malaysia's role in the world than was the case even a decade ago", Mr Dunstan said.

"The majority of Malaysians in South Australia were students and they had been very active in promoting knowledge and understanding of their country.

"In turn, South Australia is very proud of the contribution it has been able to make to Malaysia's development through its tertiary education institutions.

"For instance, we are proud and honoured that a member of the Malaysian Cabinet, the Minister of Primary Industries, Datuk Maji Abdul Taib Bin Mahmud, and many leading academics, doctors, architects and engineers, are Adelaide educated", Mr Dunstan said.

Among them I know of at least five members of the staff of the Universiti Sains Malaysia who received degrees in Adelaide.

He noted that a feature of the coming centenary celebrations of Adelaide University would be a special seminar on Australian-Asian educational and cultural relations.

"We are particularly glad that numbers of Malaysian graduates of Adelaide University are returning for the celebrations.

Mr Dunstan said he understood the graduates would fly to Adelaide next March in a chartered aircraft for the celebrations.

"I am sure they will not only receive a very warm welcome but will quickly learn that the links they pioneered with South Australia are now stronger than ever".

Mr Dunstan said that during his visit he was particularly looking forward to renewing his friendship with Dr. Lim.

"The Chief Minister visited Adelaide last October and at that time we had detailed discussions on promoting Pulau Pinang - South Australian relations. I look forward now to examining these in more detail", the Premier said.



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